

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF REGULATION & LICENSING



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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE DISCIPLINARY	:	
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST	:	
	:	FINAL DECISION AND ORDER
SIGNA MARIE PEDERSON, R.N.,	:	LS07012510NUR
RESPONDENT.	:	

[Division of Enforcement Case # 05 NUR 060]

The parties to this action for the purposes of Wis. Stat. § 227.53 are:

Signa Marie Pederson, R.N.
843 First Street
Taylors Falls, MN 55084

Division of Enforcement
Department of Regulation and Licensing
1400 East Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935

Wisconsin Board of Nursing
Department of Regulation and Licensing
1400 East Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The parties in this matter agree to the terms and conditions of the attached Stipulation as the final decision of this matter subject to the approval of the Board of Nursing. The Board has reviewed this Stipulation and considers it acceptable.

Accordingly, the Board in this matter adopts the attached Stipulation and makes the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Signa Marie Pederson, R.N., Respondent, date of birth December 2, 1958, was licensed by the Wisconsin Board of Nursing as a registered nurse in the state of Wisconsin pursuant to license number 120540, which was first granted July 20, 1995.

2. Respondent elected not to renew her license as a registered nurse when it expired on February 28, 2006, but could renew it pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 440.08(3)(a) by paying the required fees.

3. Respondent's last address reported to the Department of Regulation and Licensing is 843 First Street, Taylor Falls, MN 55084.

4. Respondent was employed by Osceola Medical Center as a registered nurse in the L.O. Simenstad Nursing Care Unit (nursing home) in Osceola, Wisconsin. In that employment, Respondent provided nursing care to Ms. A, a 92-year-old resident of the nursing home.

5. On May 21, 2004, Ms. A's hemoglobin was 13.4 g/dL, within the normal range of 11.5 to 16.5.

6. On July 13, 2004, Ms. A's physician ordered ibuprofen 400 m.g. for arthritis pain in her knee. On September 9, 2004, Ms. A's hemoglobin was 11.8, which her physician noted as being slightly low. The physician also noted that she was on ibuprofen which could be causing some gastrointestinal blood loss and ordered that it be given with meals.

7. On September 19 and 20, 2004, Ms. A had symptoms which could have been the result of mini-strokes and the physician ordered dipyridamole 75 m.g. 3 times a day and aspirin 162 m.g. four times a day. Each of the medications can cause bleeding.

8. On October 11, 2004, two nurse aides (CNAs) checked on Ms. A during 10:00 p.m. rounds. While changing Ms. A's incontinent pad, the CNAs noticed a smell like a GI bleed and saw that Ms. A had a black and bloody stool. The CNAs notified LPN A and asked her to come into the room to look at it.

9. The only light in the room was the entry light which was just inside the doorway. Ms. A was in the second bed furthest from the doorway. Neither LPN A nor the CNAs turned on another light. LPN A came into the room but did not go to Ms. A's bedside to view the stool or gather information about Ms. A's condition. LPN A left the room and commented that the stool was probably dark because Ms. A was taking Vitamin K or iron. Ms. A was taking a multiple vitamin, but no vitamin K or iron supplements. One of the CNAs did chart in the bowel movement book that Ms. A's stool was bloody.

10. LPN A did not call and report Ms. A's changed condition to her physician or the on call physician. LPN A did not chart anything regarding Ms. A's stool. At shift change, LPN A did not notify the incoming nursing staff of Ms. A having a black or bloody stool.

11. On the evening shift of October 12, 2004, a CNA saw that Ms. A had an incontinent pad full of what looked like "grape jelly" and reported it to **Respondent**, who was the registered nurse (RN) on duty. **Respondent** went into Ms. A's room and noted that the stool was moderate in amount, dark in color, shiny and mucus-like. The CNA told **Respondent** that LPN A had said the abnormal colored stool was caused by Vitamin K. **Respondent** did not call and report Ms. A's condition to her physician or the on call physician. **Respondent** did not record the condition of Ms. A's stool. **Respondent** said she intended to report the unusual stool to the night shift so Ms. A's condition would be monitored, but RN B and the other RN who worked that night shift denied being told.

12. During the October 12-13 night shift, Ms. A was in distress, crying and saying that her stomach hurt. The other RN working that shift gave Ms. A Ativan and Wygesic. At approximately 4:30 a.m. on October 13, 2004, Ms. A had blood with clots in her incontinent pad.

RN B and another nurse were working. RN B wondered aloud if it could wait for the day shift. The other RN said that it could not and notified the physician and Ms. A was transferred to the hospital emergency room. Her hemoglobin was very low at 5.5 g/dL. Ms. A was aggressively treated with: IV fluids, fresh frozen plasma, IV Vitamin K for a slightly elevated INR of 1.5, and multiple blood transfusions. The following day, Ms. A died of an acute gastrointestinal hemorrhage.

13. **Respondent** failed to record the condition of Ms. A's stool and failed to report this significant change to the appropriate person, all of which was a substantial departure from the standard of care ordinarily exercised by a competent nurse.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Wisconsin Board of Nursing has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 441.07 and has authority to enter into this stipulated resolution of this matter pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.44(5).

2. Respondent, by engaging in the conduct set out above, has committed negligence as defined by Wis. Adm. Cod. § N 7.03(1)(c), which subjects Respondent to discipline pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 441.07(1)(c).

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. Respondent, Signa Marie Pederson, R.N., is hereby REPRIMANDED for the above conduct.

2. Respondent's shall not be permitted to renew her license until she has provided proof sufficient to the Board or its designee that Respondent has:

a. Completed six (6) hours of continuing education on the subject of patient assessment, which course(s) shall first be approved by the Board, or its designee.

b. Paid to the Department of Regulation and Licensing costs of this proceeding in the amount of \$250 pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 440.22(2).

3. All payments, requests and evidence of completion of the education required by this Order shall be mailed, faxed or delivered to:

Department Monitor
Department of Regulation and Licensing
Division of Enforcement
1400 East Washington Ave.
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935
Fax (608) 266-2264
Telephone (608) 267-3817

4. This Order is effective on the date of its signing.

Wisconsin Board of Nursing

By: Marilyn Kaufmann
A Member of the Board

1/25/07
Date

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE DISCIPLINARY	:	
PROCEEDINGS AGAINST	:	
	:	STIPULATION
SIGNA MARIE PEDERSON, R.N.,	:	LS _____ NUR
RESPONDENT.	:	

[Division of Enforcement Case # 05 NUR 060]

It is hereby stipulated and agreed, by and between Signa Marie Pederson, R.N., Respondent; and John R. Zwieg, attorney for the Complainant, Department of Regulation and Licensing, Division of Enforcement, as follows:

1. This Stipulation is entered into as a result of a pending investigation of Respondent’s licensure by the Division of Enforcement (file 05 NUR 060). Respondent consents to the resolution of this investigation by stipulation and without the issuance of a formal complaint.
2. Respondent understands that by signing this Stipulation, she voluntarily and knowingly waives her rights, including the right to a hearing on the allegations against her, at which time the state has the burden of proving those allegations by a preponderance of the evidence; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against her; the right to call witnesses on her behalf and to compel their attendance by subpoena; the right to testify herself; the right to file objections to any proposed decision and to present briefs or oral arguments to the officials who are to render the final decision; the right to petition for rehearing; and all other applicable rights afforded to her under the United States Constitution, the Wisconsin Constitution, the Wisconsin Statutes, the Wisconsin Administrative Code, and any other provisions of state or federal law.
3. Respondent has been provided an opportunity to obtain advice of legal counsel prior to signing this Stipulation.
4. Respondent agrees to the adoption of the attached Final Decision and Order by the Board. The parties to the Stipulation consent to the entry of the attached Final Decision and Order without further notice, pleading, appearance or consent of the parties. Respondent waives all rights to any appeal of the Board's Order, if adopted in the form as attached.
5. If the terms of this Stipulation are not acceptable to the Board, the parties shall not be bound by the contents of this Stipulation, and the matter shall be returned to the Division of Enforcement for further proceedings. In the event that this Stipulation is not accepted by the Board, the parties agree not to contend that the Board has been prejudiced or biased in any manner by the consideration of this attempted resolution.
6. The parties to this Stipulation agree that the attorney or other agent for the Division of Enforcement and any member of the Board ever assigned as a case advisor in this investigation may appear before the Board in open or closed session, without the presence of the Respondent or her attorney, if any, for purposes of speaking in support of this agreement and answering questions that any member of the Board may have in connection with the Board’s deliberations on the Stipulation. Additionally, any such case advisor may vote on whether the Board should accept this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.
7. Respondent is informed that should the Board adopt this Stipulation, the Board’s Final Decision and Order is a public record and will be published in accordance with standard Department procedure.
8. The Division of Enforcement joins Respondent in recommending the Board adopt this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.

_____ Signa Marie Pederson, R.N. Respondent	_____ Date
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843 First Street
Taylors Falls, MN 55084

John R. Zwieg
Attorney for Complainant
Division of Enforcement
Department of Regulation and Licensing
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935

Date